OFFICE OF **CHALLENGE GRANTS**

HUMANITIES ACCESS GRANTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The guidelines say that funding is available for existing programs. How do you define an existing program?

The program must have a proven and successful track record of engaging children, families, or young adults for at least one year or one program cycle.

How do you define "young adult"?

We define "young adults" to mean anyone between ages 18 and 30.

We are an arts organization, are we be eligible to apply?

U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status are eligible, as are state and local governmental agencies and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. The program that you would like to support through this grant must be a humanities program. Please refer to the Humanities Access grant guidelines (which are available on the program resource page) and consult the definition of the humanities found on page 2.

When can my organization start fundraising?

Fundraising for NEH's Humanities Access grants may begin in May of 2017—at the time an organization applies, in anticipation of a possible award.

What happens if we don't meet the match requirement?

Humanities Access matching dollars are provided on a one-to-one basis. There will be no extensions, and organizations may not recover lost match from the first year in the second year.

For example, if in the first year an organization raises only $15,000 of its $25,000 goal, NEH will provide only $15,000 in match. If the organization raises only $20,000 of the $25,000 goal in the second year, NEH will provide only $20,000. With this reduced amount, the organization

would be required to submit a revised budget and scope for review and approval by NEH prior to beginning the spend-down period.

What happens if we meet all the fundraising goals in the first year?

Congratulations on your fundraising success! NEH will, however, match only up to $25,000 or $50,000 (depending on the level of funding you have chosen for the budget) per year. NEH is not able to "speed up" its funding schedule. If an organization is successful at raising funds more quickly or in excess of any annual match, it may use these monies to further enhance the program during the spend-down phase in the final year of the grant.

Is re-granting allowed?

Humanities Access grants do not support re-granting.

What types of donations count as match?

The Humanities Access grant requires a cash match raised from nonfederal third parties. Some examples of third parties are individuals, state or local governments, corporations, and foundations. Funds from other federal entities are not allowed as match.

Where can I find information on the eligibility and certification of gifts raised to match the federal offer of a Humanities Access Grant?

Federal Matching Funds Guidelines govern the eligibility of gifts raised to match the federal Humanities Access Grant offer, as well as accounting for and certifying gifts.